

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 231228 TOSEC 270316

12

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SAB-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /027 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:ENADEAU/JFL

APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS

S/S -O RMPERITO

S/AB - AMB. BUNKER

ARA/PAN:RWYROUGH

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O 180012Z SEP 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231228 TOSEC 270316

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LUERS, ACTING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:(KISSINGER, HENRY A.) PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: PANAMA

TEGUCIGALPA FOR SHLAUDEMANN

L. GOP ESCALATED ATTACK ON BOTH MEDIA AND DIPLOMATIC
FRONTS EARLY TODAY. GOP INFORMATION ADVISOR RELEASED
QUOTE DETAILED OFFICIAL REPORT UNQUOTE ANNOUNCING DISCOVER
OF PLAN TO DESTABILIZE GOP. REPORT ALLEGES INVOLVEMENT
IN THE CONSPIRACY BY SOME RESIDENTS OF CANAL ZONE, U.S.
SOLDIERS AND MEMBERS OF PANAMANIAN OLIGARCHY. CHARGES
GIVEN HEAVY PLAY IN PANAMANIAN MORNING PRESS. OUR EMBASSY
PROMPTLY ISSUED PRESS RELEASE DENYING ALLEGATIONS AND
POINTING OUT UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON RELATIONS AND
NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. IN WASHINGTON AT 12:30 EDT PANAMANIAN CHARGE READ

MESSAGE TO DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INDICATING THAT GOP HAD UNCOVERED SERIOUS PLOT INVOLVING AMERICAN CITIZENS AND MEMBERS OF US ARMED FORCES AIMED AT THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOP. MESSAGE LINKED ALLEGED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN PANAMA'S

INTERNAL AFFAIRS WITH REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY ON CANAL ISSUE. IT WENT ON TO INDICATE FORMAL PROTEST WOULD BE LODGED BY GOP FOREIGN MINISTER. (AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME IN PANAMA, AMBASSADOR JORDEN WAS CALLED IN BY FOREIGN MINISTER. WE UNDERSTAND FORMAL NOTE MUCH SOFTER IN TONE. WE WILL REPORT DETAILS OF MEETING BY SEPTTEL.)

3. AFTER DELIVERING MESSAGE HERE, CHARGE STATED THAT PANAMA FELT WE HAD NOT DELIVERED ON OUR QUOTE PROMISE UNQUOTE TO RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE IN SEPTEMBER. HE CITED ALLEGED CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN YOU AND AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ-REVILLA AT THE 8/27 DINNER HONORING BOXING CHAMPIONS AND BETWEEN YOU AND JORGE ILLUECA AT THE LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK ON 9/1.

4. WE TOLD CHARGE THAT BEST WAY TO ASSURE THAT WE WOULD NOT RETURN IN THE NEAR FUTURE WAS TO CONTINUE PRESENT COURSE. HE ADMITTED IN EFFECT THAT WHILE THAT COULD BE TRUE, PANAMA MIGHT AS WELL BE HUNG FOR A SHEEP AS A LAMB AND IN ANY EVENT BELIEVED THAT U.S. DECISION ALREADY MADE IN EARLY AUGUST NOT TO RETURN UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FURTHER IMMEDIATE PROGRESS IN REACHING CONCEPTUAL ACCORDS ON REMAINING ISSUES WAS ESSENTIAL TO PANAMA BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES ON OUTCOME OF OUR ELECTIONS.

5. WE ASKED CHARGE FOR COPY OF CHRONOLOGY GIVEN DAVID BINDER BUT HE ONLY PROMISED TO SUGGEST THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY PROVIDE TO EMBASSY. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN RECEIVING CALLS FROM MANY REPORTERS TODAY AND IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT US PRESS WILL PROVIDE COVERAGE AT ANY TIME. THREE U.S. SOLDIERS ARE UNDER ARREST IN PANAMA FOR PARTICIPATING IN DEMONSTRATION AND THIS AS WELL AS OTHER ASPECTS SUGGEST MAJOR NEWS STORY. BINDER CALLED DEPARTMENT TO ASK A SERIES OF QUESTIONS. WILL FURNISH TEXT
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QS AND AS SEPTTEL.

6. PANAMA CONTINUES TO REMAIN CALM, BUT THERE ARE RUMORS OF POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATIONS. GOP CHARGE WAS WORRIED THAT SITUATION COULD DEVELOP INTO INCIDENTS AND BLOODSHED. SOUTHCOM AND PAN CANAL HAVE PLACED LIMITATIONS ON MOVEMENT OF THEIR PERSONNEL AND WE ARE MONITORING SITUATION CLOSELY. ROBINSON

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 /024 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:CJACOBINI:JM

APPROVED BY: ARA/LA:WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231228

FOR SHLAUDEMAN FROM LUERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 231228 ACTION YSDEK SECRETARY INFO PANAMA

TEGUCIGALPA USUN NEW YORK 18 SEP 1976

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231228 TOSEC 270316

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LUERS, ACTING

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PROMPTLY ISSUED PRESS RELEASE DENYING ALLEGATIONS AND POINTING OUT UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON RELATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS.

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UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
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